



## Ringwood Natural History Society Hengistbury Head Walk

Date: 25th January 2017  
 Walk Leader: Sue McLachlan  
 Weather: Heavy fog to start with becoming sunny  
 Temperature: 0 increasing to 7 degrees  
 Attendees: 12

Hengistbury Head is a historic headland which provides wonderful walks with views of Christchurch Harbour, Bournemouth Bay and further across to the Purbecks, New Forest and the Isle of Wight. Its not only a nature reserve a Site of Special Scientific Interest but also a site of international importance in terms of its archaeology and is an ancient monument and ranks as one of the most important such sites in England. The northern slope of the head tails off towards the sea and forms Mudeford Spit and the sand bar closing Christchurch Harbour from the south. The reserve has a number of different habitats for wildlife including woodland, heathland and saltmarsh. Hengistbury is home to over 500 plant species, 300 types of birds, a superb variety of insects, reptiles including Natterjack Toads and small mammals. It is well known as a good site to watch bird migration in spring and autumn and to see wildfowl and waders in winter.

The walk started in heavy fog which had lingered into its third day. After walking over the head it started to clear and transform into a lovely sunny day before our eyes, revealing a fantastic view of Mudeford Spit. After walking along the spit, as it was low tide and we returned to the car park via the waters edge of Christchurch Harbour.

Birds	Flowering Plants
Stonechat	Gorse
Carrion Crow	
Meadow Pipit	<b>Fungi</b>
Magpie	Yellow Brain
Robin	
Cormorant	
Herring Gull	
Black-headed Gull	
Mute Swan	
Mallard	
Redshank	
Wigeon	
Curlew	
Teal	
Black-tailed Godwit	
Greater & Lesser Black-backed Gull	
Oystercatcher	
Grey Heron	
Little Egret	
Pheasant	



*Hengistbury Head on a Damp Misty Day*



*Mudford Spit from Hengistbury Head*